

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process of ex-situ oxidizing passivation of a catalyst for hydroconversion of hydrocarbons in which ~~said~~ a presulfurized catalyst at a temperature ~~exceeding~~ 50°C between 75 and 120°C is subjected to treatment in a passivation chamber by a gas containing molecular oxygen and in which the oxygen partial pressure in the gas is at least ~~2 kPa~~ 7 kPa.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen partial pressure in said gas is at most 21.3 kPa.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to claim 1, wherein said gas is dry.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to claim 1, wherein said gas is wet.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to claim 5, wherein the water partial pressure is at least 2 kPa.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~ implemented in two stages, the first with an oxygen partial pressure of greater than ~~or equal to~~ 2 ~~7~~ kPa, the second stage with an oxygen partial pressure of greater than that of the first stage, said second stage beginning with the disappearance of the exothermal effect.

9. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1 applied to hydrotreating catalysts.

10. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1 applied to hydrogenation catalysts.

11. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1 implemented within the framework of a process taking place in a ~~fixed~~ moving bed.

12. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1 implemented within the framework of a process taking place with a fluidized bed.

13. (New) A process according to claim 1 applied to fresh catalysts.

14. (New) A process according to claim 1, further comprising transporting the catalyst from the passivation chamber to a hydroconversion unit.

15. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the presulfurized catalyst consists essentially of sulfur, molybdenum and cobalt.

16. (New) A process according to claim 15, further comprising transporting the catalyst from the passivation chamber to a hydroconversion unit.

17. (New) A process according to claim 16 implemented within the framework of a process taking place in a moving bed.

18. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein prior to passivation, the catalyst is subjected to ex situ sulfurization.

19. (New) A process according to claim 17, wherein prior to passivation, the catalyst is subjected to ex situ sulfurization.

20. (New) A process according to claim 19 applied to fresh catalysts.

21. (New) A process according to claim 1 applied to fresh catalysts.

22. (New) A process according to claim 1, said passivation being sufficient to yield a catalyst having a critical self-heating temperature of at least 100°C.